

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and following remarks.

Claim 18 is canceled to address the issue raised in paragraph "7" of the Official Action. The rejection of Claim 18 is therefore moot.

Claim 1 is rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,830,339, hereinafter Watanabe.

Claim 1 recites a sensor holder for arranging at least one rectangular-shaped sensor through a wall and a throughgoing opening of a housing and into communication with an inside of the housing, the sensor holder including a first and a second component. The first component is adapted to hold the rectangular-shaped sensor and the second component is provided with a first sealing surface and at least one throughgoing opening. The first and second components are adapted to arrange a portion of the rectangular-shaped sensor to extend from the first component, through the opening in the second component and into communication with the inside of the housing. A rectangular-shaped envelope surface of the throughgoing opening in the second component is adapted to be tightly sealed to the rectangular-shaped sensor when pressing together the first and second component of the sensor holder. The first sealing surface of the second component is adapted to be tightly sealed to a second sealing surface provided in the housing when pressing together the sensor holder and the housing.

In the rejection, the Official Action refers to both an "insulator 120" and a "packing 120". However, in view of Watanabe's specification referring to an insulator 121 and a packing 120, it is assumed that the Official Action intends to refer to the

insulator 121 when discussing an "insulator 120". Should the above discussion not be accurate, clarification of what the Examiner intends to refer to when discussing an "insulator 120" is respectfully requested.

Thus, in rejecting Claim 1, the Official Action appears to take the position that Watanabe's insulator 121 constitutes a first component, the holder 10 constitutes a second component, and the surface of the holder 10 facing the powder 12 constitutes a first sealing surface.

However, the insulator 121 does not hold the sensor element 2. Indeed, it is clear from a careful study of Fig. 1 that a space exists between the insulator 121 and the sensor element 2. Accordingly, Watanabe does not disclose a sensor holder including a first component adapted to hold a rectangular-shaped sensor, in combination with the other elements recited in Claim 1.

Moreover, the surface of the holder 10 facing the powder 12 is not tightly sealed to a second sealing surface provided in the housing 11. Indeed, it is clear from a careful study of Fig. 1 that the surface of the holder 10 facing the powder 12 is at a right angle to the nearby surface of the housing 11. Accordingly, Watanabe does not disclose a first sealing surface of a second component adapted to be tightly sealed to a second sealing surface provided in a housing, in combination with the other elements recited in Claim 1.

Claim 1 is therefore allowable over Watanabe, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 20 is also rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,830,339, hereinafter Watanabe.

Claim 20 recites a polygonal-shaped sensor and a sensor holder for arranging the polygonal-shaped sensor through a wall of a housing and into communication with an inside of the housing, the sensor holder including a first component and a second component. The first component holds the polygonal-shaped sensor, and the second component is provided with a first sealing surface and at least one throughgoing opening. The polygonal-shaped sensor extends from the first component and through the opening in the second component. A polygonal-shaped envelope surface of the throughgoing opening in the second component is tightly sealed to the polygonal-shaped sensor. The first sealing surface of the second component is adapted to be tightly sealed to a second sealing surface provided in the housing.

In rejecting Claim 20, the Official Action also appears to take the position that Watanabe's insulator 121 constitutes a first component, the holder 10 constitutes a second component, and the surface of the holder 10 facing the powder 12 constitutes a first sealing surface.

However, the insulator 121 does not hold the sensor element 2. Indeed, it is clear from a careful study of Fig. 1 that a space exists between the insulator 121 and the sensor element 2. Accordingly, Watanabe does not disclose a sensor holder including a first component holding a polygonal-shaped sensor, in combination with the other elements recited in Claim 20.

Moreover, the surface of the holder 10 facing the powder 12 is not tightly sealed to a second sealing surface provided in the housing 11. Indeed, it is clear from a careful study of Fig. 1 that the surface of the holder 10 facing the powder 12 is at a right angle to the nearby surface of the housing 11. Accordingly, Watanabe

does not disclose a first sealing surface of a second component adapted to be tightly sealed to a second sealing surface provided in a housing, in combination with the other elements recited in Claim 20.

Claim 20 is therefore also allowable over Watanabe, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 20 is also respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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